

SIREN

New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • October 2005

George E. Pataki
Governor

James A. Burns
State Fire Administrator

Fire Reporting Participation Awards Announced

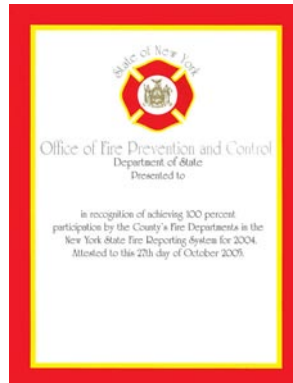
State Fire Administrator, Jim Burns, is pleased to recognize New York State counties for their participation in the NYS Fire Reporting System.

Counties with greater than 90% participation:

Albany
Allegany
Cattaraugus
Chautauqua
Chemung
Cortland
Dutchess
Erie
Livingston
Oneida
Orange
Oswego
Rockland
Schuyler
Washington
Wayne

The following counties have achieved 100% participation:

Chenango
Columbia
Essex
Fulton
FDNY
Genesee
Lewis
Orleans
Putnam
Wyoming



These counties will receive a certificate of recognition for their efforts and participation in the NYS Fire Reporting System. In addition, these counties will also be awarded a scholarship for the New York State Academy of Fire Science. The scholarship may be used for any state sponsored program offered at The Academy.

Congratulations to these counties and all the fire departments within these counties for their efforts in reporting.

Editor's Note: Why isn't YOUR county on this list??

Property tax credit for fire and ambulance volunteers

Oneida County Executive Joe Griffo believes volunteer fire departments are the backbone of homeland security. Monday June 6, he signed into law a property tax credit for volunteer fire and ambulance workers in Oneida County.

The bill reduces taxes on firefighters' homes by about 10 percent of their assessed values up to \$3,000. Griffo says volunteers are well deserving of the tax break.

"I respect what they all do and today in signing this law it will give them an opportunity to benefit from this and it shows them a token of our gratitude and appreciation for their hard work," said Joe Griffo.

The exemption is granted to volunteers who have been enrolled in their departments at least five years. Griffo says he hopes it helps attract more volunteers to local departments.

Thomas J. Wutz - Chief, Fire Services Bureau

OFPC and NYS Office of Homeland Security partner to increase regional offerings of Technical Rescue Training Programs.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) and the New York State Office of Homeland Security (OHS) have partnered together to expand the number of course offerings in the Technical Rescue Regional Training Program. This agreement will enhance OFPC's current offerings by increasing the number of available courses from one to four programs monthly.

The training will also be supported by the acquisition of additional specialty rescue tools and equipment. This training equipment will assure students have the necessary tools to use during these training programs.

It is anticipated that this partnership will continue to enhance New York State's Emergency Service Community's ability to respond to situations that require specialized technical rescue skills.

Submitted by: Bryant Stevens, Chief – Special Services Bureau

Hybrids: How are they different?

One of the most frequently asked questions in the world of vehicle rescue lately has been the concern for hybrid vehicles. The fire service has some unnecessary fears regarding these vehicles. "They're going to blow up if we put water on it... we can't help individuals that may be in water..." are a few of the concerns I have heard. In this article we will explore hybrid vehicles as well as any special concerns they create for rescuers.

For rescuers we need to first recognize that the vehicle is a hybrid. Most hybrid vehicles will look like their conventional counterparts, however,



hybrids will have a marking around the trunk area that indicates that the vehicle is a hybrid. Secondly, hybrid vehicles have two battery systems, a low voltage and a high voltage. The low voltage

system is powered by a standard 12 volt vehicle battery. The high voltage battery can run as high as 600 volts. As with conventional vehicle rescue, the disabling of the low voltage battery is of the utmost importance. Once the low voltage battery is disabled, this then disables the high voltage battery which allows the rescuer to deal with the vehicle in the same fashion as that of a conventional vehicle.



A specific problem associated with hybrid vehicles that we as rescuers do not deal with on conventional vehicles is that a hybrid has the capability of "going to sleep." This is when the vehicle's gasoline engine will turn off to save the vehicle fuel, however the vehicle is still capable of running on its electrical system. Upon arrival at the scene of a vehicle accident involving a hybrid, rescuers may be greeted by a silent vehicle that is still being powered. Some hybrids can exceed 25 mph on their electrical system. The rescuer's solution to this problem is to immediately stabilize the vehicle, gain access inside the vehicle, turn off the ignition, and place the vehicle in park. By following these procedures the vehicle is shutdown and we can now gain access to, and disable the 12-volt electrical system. As with most vehicles, the 12-volt battery may be located under the hood, in the trunk, under the rear seat, or possibly

in the front tire well. Rescuers must find the battery and cut the power. In doing so the high voltage battery will be isolated. At this point, once the above is completed, the rescuers are now



dealing with a conventional vehicle with the exception of the disabled high voltage battery remaining in the vehicle.

Vehicle Manufacturers have engineered safety precautions into hybrid vehicles. If there is airbag deployment or if

water reaches the level of the high voltage battery, the high voltage power system will automatically shutdown. Also, all manufacturers have made the high voltage wiring and connections orange. If the battery on these vehicles is located in the trunk, manufacturers have routed the wiring underneath the vehicle and not through it. The intention of this wiring placement is to avoid the wiring being put in a location where rescuers typically deal with during cutting operations.



Rescuers have a right to be concerned about the safety regarding hybrid vehicles. However, with the completion of a few extra steps, we as rescuers will make these vehicles safe and manageable.

For more information on hybrid vehicles and emergency responder precautions, visit the websites of any manufacturer that produces hybrid vehicles in the United States.

By Jerry Mazurkiewicz – FPS
OFPC Special Services Bureau
Deputy Chief Newton Abbott Fire Company

<http://www.hybridcars.com/hybrids-fires-emergencies.html>

<http://www.hybridcars.com/safety-size.html>

<http://www.carsp.ca/hybrids.htm>

<http://techinfo.toyota.com/public/main/erg.html>

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Do We Train Enough?

Dear Fire Service Professional,

We published Chief Dan Jones' editorial in our May/June issue and have received numerous letters and e-mails in response to his opinions. To make sure we're reaching all of our audience with this information, we'd like to share it with you here.

Sincerely,

The Editors of National
Fire & Rescue

Do We Train Enough?
And What is Enough
Training?

By Dan Jones, Editor-in-
Chief



Does the fire service conduct enough training for its personnel? No matter if it's volunteer, combination or career, is there any fire department in the country that provides enough training for its personnel? The Insurance Services Office (ISO) requires 240 hours of training per year, but is that enough to maintain competency? Some states set specific standards for hours of fire training, but what do they base that on? What is enough training to maintain competency? At an even higher level, what is enough training to be truly effective, efficient and safe on the fire-ground or at any emergency scene? I ask these questions in all sincerity because I have been involved with fire and emergency training at some instructor level for more than 25 years, and I really don't know what enough training is. However, I will tell you that I do not believe there is a fire department in existence that conducts enough training for their firefighters or officers.

For the purposes of this discussion, let's consider professional or collegiate team sports. Football, basketball, baseball and soccer teams practice daily during the weeks leading up to and during their seasons. They study game-plans and scouting reports (their version of preplans), they conduct repetitive drills and plays (our evolutions), they constantly practice fundamentals (our basic skills)-even at the pro level-and they devote time to conditioning daily (fitness). During their pre-seasons they even have two-a-day practices in preparation for upcoming competitions. All of this effort and all they are playing for are to win games and invented championships. No one's life is on the line, just trophies.

The fire service "season," on the other hand, is year-round. We potentially have a competition every day in the form of structure fires, wild-

land fires, vehicle fires, vehicle extrications, technical rescues and medical emergencies. Our skills, teamwork, "game-plans" and fitness are on the line in a contest that has life-or-death consequences for citizens and ourselves. And yet, our training does not even rise to a percentage of what pro and collegiate athletic teams do for training. So again I ask, what is enough training for the fire service?

The average fire department today has many demands on its time and resources. Community expectations have grown tremendously in the last decade. We are expected to prevent fires, fight fires, conduct rescues, perform emergency medical work, mitigate hazardous materials incidents, defend the community from weapons of mass destruction, provide safety education to our populations, conduct risk assessments, enforce codes, investigate hazards, manage community events, protect the environment, apply for grants to reduce local spending, keep the apparatus shiny, mow the fire station grass once a week and write reports on all of the previous tasks. This is nearly impossible for a full-time, heavily staffed fire department, but it is truly mission impossible for small fire departments with minimal personnel or an all-volunteer force. So how can they even scratch the surface of training enough?

It seems to me that the more specialized we become and the more services we deliver, the more skills and knowledge are required, and because of all the additions, we have even less time to train. It is a vicious cycle that is eroding our skills, our teamwork, our effectiveness and our safety. When I first entered the fire service in 1974, I remember that we conducted some form of training every day. Either classroom or drill ground and sometimes both were part of our daily routine. Volunteer firefighters I knew in neighboring departments trained every single week, and they were required to make nearly all of the sessions. Now it seems that many career firefighters are lucky to have one training session a week and many volunteer firefighters are down to training every other week or even monthly. Meanwhile, our mission has become more complicated and the tasks require more skill. Are you starting to see a trend here? I am.

The new national fire service motto promoted by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and other fire organizations is "Everyone Goes Home," and it's intended to promote firefighter safety. Maybe it ought to be amended to "Everyone Goes Home if We Train Enough." We have to get back to making training an absolute priority in all of our departments, large or small, career or volunteer-it shouldn't matter. Time for training must be carved out of our busy schedules and defended aggressively. We have got to quit making excuses and accepting excuses of why we have not trained. Ours is not a mission that can or should accept mediocrity, and yet we seem to be at that point. Indecision, equipment fumbling, uncertain skills, dysfunctional teams, duplicated effort, knowledge deficiencies, slow actions and critical mistakes have no place on the fireground or emergency scene, and the only way to combat those negatives is with frequent, aggressive, consistent and comprehensive training.

Football and basketball teams run plays from their playbook over and over and over, until the functions of each member of the team are ingrained and almost second nature. Firefighters run an evolution twice and they are done, ready to pack up and

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go to the house. We need to develop a team-sports mentality. Develop a set of basic plays (evolutions) that are reasonable and realistic for your department. And then run them over and over until they become second nature. Then throw in twists and adjustments until your proficiency is obvious. That is how sports teams become winners in games, and it is how fire companies can become effective on scene. Study preplans as if they were game-plans. Review skills frequently and consider those the fundamentals. Practice your functions until you can do them fast, in the dark and without hesitation.

Training officers and instructors must maintain a reasonable balance between new or specialized skills and the basics, company evolutions and fundamental skills. The last time a 10-year veteran firefighter practiced a basic skill should not have been in his rookie school. WMD, USAR, ALS and HazMat are all necessary subjects, but they must not replace fire streams, ropes and knots, SCBA, BLS and ventilation skills. After all, we still respond to a lot more structure fires than bomb or chemical explosions. Besides, all of our trusty basic fire skills are still needed at the scene of a terrorist incident or technical rescue.

We need a renewed commitment to training in the American fire service. We need to renew our vows to skill, competency and teamwork. We need to recognize that our success in every service we provide is born in the classroom and on the drill ground. We also need to realize that our emergency scene failures and mistakes did not occur only at that instance but were initiated in a lack of training, practice and drill. Our firefighter injuries and deaths can often be traced back to a lack of skill, knowledge, preparation, fitness and teamwork-the same reasons that athletic teams lose games. The difference is that we have much more at stake in the competition.

Fire and death are ruthless opponents, and if we are not properly prepared for that competition, we and others will lose more than a game. We should train like our lives and our citizens' lives depend on it, because they do.

So how much training is enough? I have no idea, but I know that none of us have reached that level.

http://www.nfrmag.com/bannertrack_ff_dj.asp

Improper Disposal of Hazardous Substances

Improper Disposal of Hazardous Substances and Resulting Injuries, Selected States, January 2001--March 2005

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5436a2.htm>

On-Line Courses offered at Monroe Community College

The Homeland Security Management Institute, an initiative of Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY, offers six online courses, which are designed for first responders, public officials, private businesses, safety professionals, health care providers, and anyone who plays a role in emergency prevention and preparedness. The courses are "What Is Public Health," "Basic Incident Command Systems," "Management of Public Health Emergencies," "Juvenile Firestarter Prevention, Emergency Scene Safety and Agents," and "Treatments and Protections."

To register for the courses, visit:

<http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/hsmi/courses.htm>.

On-Line Courses offered at Long Island University

This fall Long Island University's Southampton College will launch its new Homeland Security Management Institute and begin offering a new Online Homeland Security Management Graduate-Level Advanced Certificate program. The program is approved and fully registered by the New York State Department of Education, with a curriculum developed to address the specific needs of busy professional homeland security managers and executives in such specialized fields as law enforcement, private and corporate security, the military, firefighting, and hazmat operations and emergency management. A unique feature of the program is that qualified and experienced homeland security personnel who have outstanding professional credentials but may not have completed all their requirements for a bachelor's degree may apply for admission to this graduate-level program and, if accepted, can earn a graduate academic credential. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.southampton.liu.edu/homeland/index.html>, or contact the Director of Graduate Admissions, Joyce Tuttle, at (631) 287-8010 or by email at Joyce.Tuttle@LIU.edu.

New WISER

National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

The 2.1 release of WISER has updated data, more refined search results and a new print capability from the Windows version. Available for the Palm, Pocket PC and Windows desktop/laptops.

Go to the WISER home page to download the new versions. <http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>

Coming soon ... in the next few weeks we will announce WOW - Wiser On the Web. We will send out a notice as soon as it's ready for you.

And, based on your requests, we are working on a PDA Web-browser version of WISER...one that will operate on your Blackberry (as well as other PDAs with wireless connectivity).

Thanks for your suggestions and feedback...it is making WISER a better tool.

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Hazardous Materials and Home Security Bureau

The Hazardous Materials Bureau currently offers numerous courses in hazardous materials and emergency response to weapons of mass destruction. We offer courses that can help your department comply with the OSHA hazardous materials requirements. All firefighters should be trained to the "operations level", OSHA also requires an annual operations refresher for all firefighters. Our Hazardous Materials Operations course is accepted as meeting the requirements for the initial training. Our First Responder Operations level Annual Refresher Training course is a four hour program that meets the OSHA requirements for refresher training. If your personnel are trained to the Technician Level, we offer an eight hour Technician Refresher training course that will satisfy the OSHA requirements for refresher training to that level.

OSHA also requires individuals who assume command of hazardous materials incidents to have specific training in commanding those incidents. Our Hazardous Materials Incident Command course meets the special OSHA requirements for that training.

We also have several new courses including an "Advanced Hazardous Materials Technician" course available both at the Academy of Fire Science and Camp Smith. We have two new awareness courses; "Recognizing Clandestine Drug Lab Operations", and "Radiation Awareness". The Hazardous Materials technician course has been revised and is now 40 hours in length with a lot of hands-on activity.

Hazardous materials response teams may be interested in our new "Emergency Response to Chemical WMD Agents course (8 hrs.) which includes a four hour exercise.

We are continuously working to update our curriculum. One course we recently revised is "Emergency Response to Terrorism: Tactical Considerations for Company Officers". The course has all new scenarios and is a very exciting and interactive program. Any of these courses can be scheduled at your location by your County Fire Coordinator.

You will find our programs flexible, our staff helpful, and our training programs top notch. Also keep in mind that the U. S. Department of Homeland Security sponsors several specialized hazardous materials training programs at specific locations throughout the USA. All travel, lodging, and meal expenses are provided by the Federal government.

For further information contact Deputy Chief Bernie Kirk at:
Bkirk@dos.state.ny.us

NYSAFSC Announces Fall Seminar Series

NYSAFSC Announces Fall Seminar Series with Captain Mike Dugan, FDNY

Coming to 10 Locations is the Fall of 2005 "Ventilation Strategies in Today's Buildings" with Captain Mike Dugan, FDNY.

This 3-hour seminar will highlight the procedures and proper techniques required to ventilate a structure fire. The officers and firefighters in attendance will learn the proper steps to make the critical decisions of "When, How and Why" to ventilate a structure. Classroom discussion will review the SOP's for proper ventilation, ventilation practices, and the effect of ventilation on different types of construction. This seminar is geared for all ranks of the fire service and will outline the major key points that are crucial for successful ventilation.

Dutchess County - October 19th

Rockland County - October 20th

Essex County - November 9th

Schenectady County - November 10th

Chautauqua County - November 15th

Genesee County - November 16th

Seneca County - November 17th

Jefferson County - November 29th

Oneida County - November 30th

Broome County - December 1st

For details, registration information and forms, follow the links at:

<http://www.nysfirechiefs.com/>

CBIAC Newsletter On-Line

The latest Chemical and Biological Defense Information Analysis Center (CBIAC) Newsletter (Volume 6, Number 3, Summer 2005) has been posted to the Newsletters page

<http://www.cbiac.apgea.army.mil/awareness/newsletter/intro.html>

of the CBIAC website

<http://www.cbiac.apgea.army.mil/>

Past issues are also available for viewing or downloading from this site.

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National Certification Testing

National Certification became a reality in New York State in 1999 when State Fire Administrator James Burns signed an agreement with the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications for the Office of Fire Prevention and Control to administer the program in New York State. Initially the State provided certification in 4 areas; Firefighter 1 and 2 and Fire Service Instructor 1 and 2.

Since the inception of the program, over 2,000 National Certificates have been awarded to Firefighters and Fire Officers across the State. Beginning in January 2005, the number of National Certification levels available for testing has been dramatically increased. In addition to the Firefighter and Instructor levels mentioned above, qualified individuals may apply to be tested for the following:

- Fire Officer 1, 2 and 3.
- Fire Investigator
- Haz Mat Awareness
- Haz Mat Ops
- Incident Safety Officer
- Incident Safety Officer, Suppression

Tests for all of the above levels are scheduled for Oct. 29-30 at the Fire Academy in Montour Falls. More detailed information on National Certification testing is available in the 2006 New York State Emergency Responder Training Catalog and on the OFPC web-site.

<http://dos.state.ny.us/fire/residential.html>

National Certification is an opportunity for qualified Firefighters, career and volunteer, to test their skills and knowledge against national standards that are recognized across the country.

Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2004

USFA Releases "Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2004"

Release Date: September 27, 2005

Emmitsburg, MD. - The United States Fire Administration released the report "Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2004". This report details the circumstances and trends found in the 117 firefighter deaths experienced by the United States in 2004. Firefighters that died on-duty in 2004 represent forty-one (41) states. Pennsylvania suffered the largest number of deaths with 18 firefighter fatalities. In 2004, 36 career firefighters

and 81 volunteer firefighters lost their lives serving their communities.

"The challenge to reduce firefighter fatalities is one the entire fire service needs to take an active role in addressing. Many of our firefighter fatalities could be prevented by simple steps to enhance safety such as using seat belts, reducing speed while responding, and improved training," said Deputy United States Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson. "The USFA looks forward to working with the many fire organizations and departments to continue the development and implementation of the sixteen Everyone Goes Home firefighter safety initiatives."

Eighty firefighters died in activities directly related to emergency incidents. This includes all firefighters who died while responding to an emergency, while at an emergency scene, or while returning from the emergency incident. Non-emergency activities accounted for 37 fatalities. Non-emergency duties include training, administrative activities, or performing other functions that are not related to an emergency incident.

- Two Pittsburgh firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning church, two Nebraska firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning single-family residence, and two Philadelphia firefighters were killed when they became trapped in the basement of a burning home. The Philadelphia Fire Department also suffered the loss of a firefighter in a January structure fire.

- Six female firefighters died in 2004. This level of female deaths has only been exceeded once in the past when four female firefighters perished in a single incident in 1994.

- The leading type of duty being performed by firefighters that died in 2004 was working on the scene of a fire incident. Thirty firefighters died while working on fire scenes.

- The second leading type of duty was responding and returning from an incident scene with 22 deaths. Over half of these deaths were in vehicle crashes.

- 2004 had the highest level of stress or overexertion-related deaths in over a decade. There were 66 firefighter deaths that were attributed to stress and overexertion in 2004.

- In 2004, 61 firefighters died of heart attacks, 4 died of strokes, and 1 firefighter died of a heart-related cause.

The report also contains detailed information on healthy eating and safety during specific components of emergency response. The report may be ordered in hardcopy or downloaded in portable document format (PDF) from the USFA Web site at

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/display.cfm?it=9-0831>.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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J. Calvin Jureit passed away

In the NY Times Obituaries on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2005 it was noted that J. Calvin Jureit had passed away on Sept. 9 in Stuart, FL. Now, one might ask, so what? Who was he? And why would we care?

Well, Mr. Jureit was responsible, and will continue to be responsible, for the deaths of firefighters around the world. He was the inventor of the infamous "Gang-nail plate" which, as we all know, is the first part of a light weight wood truss system to fail in a fire.

"A 1955 version of this connecting plate was only one in a string of similar inventions serving the same purpose, but because his connector required no nailing, gluing or drilling at all, and because it came just as the roof-truss industry was booming, it had a major impact on home building," according to the obit in the Times. "Before the use of connecting plates, roofs were often constructed not with trusses but with individual rafters, a process that required highly skilled carpenters, precise cuts and a difficult procedure called toe-nailing, in which nails are driven into the lumber at a sharp angle."

According to John A. White, former dean of engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, "The whole notion about affordable housing and productivity increases came about because of his invention. Because of Henry Ford, cars evolved from being crafted one at a time to assembly-line construction, which made the automobile affordable. Jureit has been widely recognized for doing this for housing."

The company he started to market his most famous invention, Gang-Nails Inc., grew quickly and soon employed more than 1,000 workers, with sales worldwide. It went public in 1961 as Automated Building Components Inc., and is now owned by Warren Buffet under the name of MiTek.

Mr. Jureit said he first imagined the Gang-Nail plate during a meditative moment in church, and named it during a quiet moment in the shower. He was modest about the brainstorm.

"You just scratch your head a little bit and think," he said. "It's not that hard."

Submitted by: Dick Nagle, Director, NYS Academy of Fire Science

MSA White Papers

MSA has made available a series of White Papers. The White Papers are in downloadable PDF format through their website. The available White Papers are:

[Surface Acoustic Wave \(SAW\) Sensing, Technology for the Detection of Nerve and Blister Agents](#) (08/18/2005)

This MSA white paper describes the technology behind SAW and how this technology can be used for the detection of chemical warfare agents. Key factors to consider in the selection ...

[Photoionization Detectors \(PIDs\), Technology for the Detection of Volatile Organic Compounds](#) (08/18/2005)

This MSA white paper summarizes the theory behind photoionization detection sensors and describes some of the factors that affect PID performance. Key factors to consider in the selection ...

[Radiation Detection Overview \(alpha, beta and gamma particles\)](#) (08/18/2005)

This MSA white paper covers types of decay radiation, gamma radiation protection, background radiation, radiation measurement and detection, and the health effects of various amounts ...

[Photoionization Detectors \(PIDs\), Theory, Uses and Applications for First Responders, Law Enforcement Agents, HazMat and Fire Service Professionals](#) (08/18/2005)

This MSA paper concerns the needs of First Responders, for the detection and identification of hazardous compounds in emergency situations. Photoionization detectors offer the ideal ...

[Criteria for Evaluating Compact Multigas Detectors](#) (08/18/2005)

This MSA paper concerns the choices now available to users of multigas detectors. This class of compact and lightweight portable instruments is ideal for individual worker safety. ...

<http://www.msanorthamerica.com/gasdetection/whitepapers.html>

<http://www.arnoldprint.com/msa/start.cfm?catid=5>

TATP - Explosive of Choice

The TIMES ONLINE reported that triacetone triperoxide (TATP) has become the "explosive of choice" for transnational terror groups. Scientists confirmed that TATP was used in the shoe bomb that Richard Reid attempted to detonate and also in the recent London bombings. Researchers further corroborated that the substance has been used abundantly in the Middle East by bomb-makers and suicide bombers.

TATP is one of a group of explosives based on the highly unstable peroxide group of compounds, which are sensitive to heat, friction, and shock. The base ingredients are drain cleaner, bleach, and acetone. Counterterrorism specialists consider it alarming because its chemical composition is simple, can be easily purchased without raising suspicion, effortlessly synthesized in clandestine labs, and in its finished form is almost undetectable by conventional bomb detection techniques including bomb-sniffing dogs. Making matters worse, instructions for making TATP can be found on the Internet when applying relatively basic search skills.

Considering the escalating worldwide use of this explosive, the EMR-ISAC (Emergency Management – Information Sharing And Analysis Center) suggests TATP recognition training for personnel in the Emergency Services Sector. Emergency responders must exercise caution when encountering the above-mentioned ingredients, and know what to do and who to contact when TATP is found. More information about this explosive can be seen at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TATP>

A fact sheet about preparing for a terrorist bombing is at:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masstrauma/pdf/preparingterroristbombing.pdf>

Energy Costs May Trigger More Heating Fires

NFPA - Quincy, MA - The substantially increased cost to heat homes this winter might drive homeowners to use supplemental heating sources whenever possible. Fireplaces and space heaters can make a room toasty, but the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urges consumers to use caution when using these devices by thinking fire-safety first.

There were 45,500 home heating fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2002, according to NFPA. These fires caused 220 deaths, 990 injuries and \$449 million in property damage. These numbers have generally declined over recent years, but with natural gas and oil prices expected to rise sharply from last year at this time, those who never used supplemental heating may elect to do so, thereby causing more fires.

Based on frequency of use, space heaters pose a higher risk of fire and fire death than central heating.

Fireplaces and chimneys were involved in 43% of all home heating fires and 11% of the associated deaths. Fixed and portable space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in 25% of the home heating fires, but 74% of the associated deaths. Central heating was involved in 19% of home heating fires and 10% of the associated deaths.

Most fireplace and chimney fires were caused by creosote build-up. The leading cause of space heater fires was combustibles too close to the heaters. Central heating fires were primarily caused by mechanical failures or malfunctions.

Heating equipment can be used safely if homeowners follow these recommendations:

- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician, according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes. Or make sure a qualified technician checks to see that the unit has been properly installed.
- Keep or maintain a 36-inch clearance between space heaters and anything that can burn.
- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors and all other solid-fueled heating equipment inspected annually by a professional, and cleaned as often as inspections suggest. Use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote build-up.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Have any gas-fueled heating device installed with proper attention to ventilation. If unvented gas space heaters are used in bedrooms or bathrooms, make sure they are small and well-mounted. NFPA codes prohibit use of liquefied petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies.
- Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

USFA Call Center Opens

USFA OPENS CALL CENTER IN SUPPORT OF
FIREFIGHTERS HELPING FIREFIGHTERS

EMMITSBURG, MD- The United States Fire Administration, at the request of a number of fire service organizations and disaster relief efforts, announced the opening of a national call center to assist fire organizations seeking to help fire departments, firefighters and their families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The call center has been created to accept calls from departments with equipment to be donated to departments that have lost theirs. The call center will also be taking calls from fire departments needing equipment in the disaster areas, as well as firefighters seeking assistance with their family needs.

"Like the events of September 11, 2001, I am once again reminded of the American Spirit within the fire service," said Charlie Dickinson, Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator. "Never before, have so many organizations come together to ask the USFA to assist with the coordination of this massive humanitarian effort."

The USFA call center number is 1-800-250-9036, and the email address is fireaid@dhs.gov. Starting Saturday, September 24, 2005, the center will be open from 7am to 7pm (EDT), seven days a week until further notice.

All donations will be managed by a Steering Committee representing the numerous relief efforts currently underway throughout this nation. Requests for assistance will also be reviewed by this steering committee for matching of the offer and the need.

"Nothing like this has been done before by the USFA," said Dickinson. "To be asked by these organizations to assist with the coordination, and to have FEMA Donations encourage us to assist these groups is indeed a great honor."

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

DECON Nomex and Kevlar

Assistance with decontamination of turn-out gear. There have been many inquiries regarding decontamination of turn-out gear following emergency operations in the aftermath of Katrina.

There are very specific laundering and decontamination instructions provided by the garment manufacturers. It is best to follow these instructions. You may also contact the garment manufacturer. If you are having difficulties getting a response from a manufacturer of garments containing DuPont NOMEX®, or KEVLAR®, contact our (DuPont) customer service folks at 800.931.3456.

Bleach can damage certain materials and in some cases, bleach may not work as well as you think. It is not a magic bullet. There are other cleaning and disinfecting products that have proven efficacy and do not cause damage to the garment fabric.

Jim Zeigler
DuPont Personal Protection

Aerial photos of New Orleans

Follow this link. The red line is the path of Katrina's eye. Click inside one of the black squares. This takes you to another map. Click inside one of the smaller black squares on this map and you will get to some amazing aerial photographs of the area. If you know where New Orleans is, you can navigate to some pictures of the flooding.

<http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/katrina/KATRINA0000.HTM>

Hurricane Relief Information at SEMO

Hurricane Relief: For information regarding Hurricane Katrina relief, please visit the New York State Emergency Management Office website.

<http://www.nysemo.state.ny.us/>

GAO Disaster Bibliography

A bibliography of GAO products related to disaster preparedness, response, and reconstruction has been posted on GAO's Internet site at

<http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/featured/dpr.html>.

Hurricane names and a bit of history

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutnames.shtml>

Vibrio Illnesses After Hurricane Katrina --- Multiple States

August--September 2005

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5437a5.htm>

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Lessons from Katrina begin to emerge

This is a multi-part series. If you go to this website and scroll down about half way to the box on the right side, you can read the first 4 installments first. The links to the first 4 articles is under Related Links.

Lessons from Katrina begin to emerge

By Chris Stroh

NEW ORLEANS--Officials in charge of response and recovery operations say it may take years to fully learn the lessons from Hurricane Katrina, but some already are evident, such as the need to deal with evacuating hundreds of thousands of citizens and for federal agencies to pre-position critical resources.

Some officials now are questioning whether Hurricane Katrina will do for emergency management what the 9/11 attacks did for the intelligence community. Sept. 11 revealed major shortcomings and vulnerabilities within U.S. intelligence, leading to a major overhaul of agencies and processes.

Hurricane Katrina has raised numerous questions, such as what happens when first responders are themselves the victims of a catastrophe and local infrastructure is wiped out, and how should the federal government respond if a state is slow to ask for assistance or actually resists federal help.

Full story:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32254&dcn=e_gvet

NVFC and IAFF Establish Relief Funds

The National Volunteer Fire Council and the International Association of Fire Fighters have established Relief Funds for Fire Departments and members.

For complete details the IAFF link is:

<http://www.iaff.org/>

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has established an Emergency Relief Fund to aid fire departments who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

NVFC has also established a second Fund to aid individual volunteer firefighters and their families who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. The NVFC Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund, working through NVFC state member fire associations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, will identify volunteer firefighters who are seeking assistance.

Online donations may be made via the NVFC website at <http://www.nvfc.org> or checks can be mailed to:
NVFC Emergency Relief Fund
P.O. Box 223202
Chantilly, VA 20153

All contributions are tax deductible and your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

Heather Schafer, Executive Director
National Volunteer Fire Council
1050 17th Street, NW, Suite 490
Washington, DC 20036
202 887-5700, ext. 17
202 887-5291 Fax
1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832)
<http://www.nvfc.org>
hschafer@nvfc.org

Thomas J. Wutz - Chief, Fire Services Bureau

Legislation would require pet to be included in evacuations

Legislation would require pet to be included in evacuations
More would leave if pets allowed, lawmakers say
Thursday, September 22, 2005; Posted: 2:36 p.m. EDT (18:36 GMT)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Federal disaster grants to state and local governments should be conditioned on how they accommodate pets in their evacuation plans, say lawmakers disturbed that some Hurricane Katrina victims refused to leave home because they couldn't take their animals with them.

"I cannot help but wonder how many more people could have been saved had they been able to take their pets," Rep. Tom Lantos, D-California, said Thursday. Lantos and Reps. Christopher Shays, R-Connecticut, and Barney Frank, D-Massachusetts, are sponsoring a bill that would require that state and local disaster preparedness plans required for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding include provisions for household pets and service animals. More than 6,000 pets have been saved in Mississippi and Louisiana, said Michael Markarian, executive vice president of the Humane Society of the United States, but tens of thousands more could still be in New Orleans alone. Texas, he said, has been better at allowing people to take their pets with them ahead of Hurricane Rita but a formal policy is still needed.

"We cannot rely on individual acts of compassion," Markarian said.

Holly Hazard, executive director of the Doris Day Animal League, said there are 4,000 outstanding requests to rescue pets more than three weeks after Katrina hit.

While the legislation may draw attention to the issue, it doesn't "have any real meat in it," said Sara Spaulding, a spokeswoman for the American Humane Association. She said uniform protocols on rescuing and sheltering animals, for example, should be formulated at the federal level with consultation from animal welfare groups.

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NIEH Sciences Awards \$37 Million

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Awards \$37 Million to Train Emergency and Hazardous Waste Workers

"More than \$37 million will go to workers involved in emergency response and hazardous waste clean-up from awards just made by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), one of the National Institutes of Health. The grants will provide training designed to protect workers and their communities from exposure to toxic materials encountered during hazardous waste operations and chemical emergency response. Some of these awards are granted under the newly created Hazmat Disaster Preparedness Training Program. The new program was developed in the aftermath of the World Trade Center Disaster, and is the result of the lessons learned by NIEHS-funded workers who participated in the subsequent clean-up of the affected area. The grants will be administered by the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program (WETP)." (National Institutes of Health News, 9/13/2005)

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2005/niehs-13.htm>

DHS Posts OnLine Tutorial

The applicant tutorial is available through the <http://www.firegrantsupport.com> website. The tutorial is designed to instruct users on the preparation and submittal of competitive applications as well as an overview of the funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Applicants who have questions regarding the fire prevention and safety grant opportunity should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov. During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

The AFG is administered by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>

Responder Knowledge Base (RKB)

Sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness and the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) has been designed to provide emergency responders with a single source for integrated information on current equipment, including organizing lists such as the InterAgency Board's Standardized Equipment List (SEL), and the Authorized Equipment List (AEL) from the Office for Domestic Preparedness. The RKB also adds value through knowledge links, user opinions, and hints authored by subject matter experts. By integrating this information into one location, the RKB has become a "go-to" site for the responder community to begin answering questions such as:

- What equipment is out there? (including searches using the SEL and AEL)
- Has it been certified?
- To what standard?
- What training is needed to use it?
- How do I pay for it?
- Whom can I talk to that has used it?

Vendors, testing agencies, standards organizations and trainers are supporting the RKB by populating it with current data. There is no charge to them for posting their data, and no charge to the community for accessing it. The RKB is provided as a public service. For more information, see the site at <http://www.rkb.mipt.org>, or contact us via email at rkb@terrorism.com.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

This Web site is presented by the Office for Domestic Preparedness of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

Applicants for the competitive Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program may access a number of support items at this Web site that are designed to explain the program and provide assistance in completing the online application. The program is designed to assist local fire departments in protecting citizens and firefighters against the effects of fire and fire-related incidents. Applicants are encouraged to visit this Web site throughout the application period to obtain up-to-date information as the program progresses.

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/>

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New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • October 2005

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Department of Homeland Security Announces the Sixth and Seventh Round of Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Awarding \$74.3 Million to America's Fire Departments

(Washington, DC) Department of Homeland Security announced the latest rounds of the Fiscal Year 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awarding 770 grants to fire departments throughout the United States.

AFGP will issue approximately 5,500 awards worth nearly \$600 million in direct assistance to firefighters and first responders throughout the country, demonstrating Homeland Security's commitment to ensuring that America's firefighters have the resources they need to protect their communities.

For more information on State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness (SLGCP), please visit the Website at www.ojp.gov/odp.

For more information on United States Fire Administration (USFA), please visit the website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>.

To view the latest round of award announcements, please visit: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/awards>

STIHL MS 192 T Chain Saw

IMPORTANT RECALL AND SAFETY NOTICE

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Stihl is recalling chainsaw model MS 192 T (manufactured between January 2005 and July 2005). The chainsaws were sold throughout the United States by Stihl dealers and have serial numbers between 264371702 and 266087005.

Link to: http://www.stihl.us/recalls/recall_MS192T.html

Thomas J. Wutz
Chief, Fire Services Bureau

Recall of Gas Control Valves on Water Heaters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2005

Release # 05-274

Robertshaw's Hotline: (888) 225-1071

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

CPSC, Robertshaw Controls Co. Announce Recall of Gas Control Valves on Water Heaters

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the manufacturer named below, today announced voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed

Name of Product: Robertshaw R110 Series Gas Control Valves

Units: About 178,000

Manufacturer: Robertshaw Controls Co., of Long Beach, Calif.

Hazard: Screws on some water heater valves could break. If this happens, gas could leak from the valve, which poses a risk of gas explosion and fire.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The R110 Gas Control Valves being recalled are installed on natural and liquid propane (LP) gas water heaters. The recalled valves were manufactured between July 25, 2005 and August 14, 2005 with production date codes 5-31 through and including 5-33, although not all valves with these date codes are affected. The recalled valves were installed on the following water heater brands: American Proline, Bradford White, GE, GSW, Hotpoint, Jetglas, John Wood, Lochinvar, Premier Plus, Powerflex, Rheem, Richmond, Ruud, Vanguard, Whirlpool, and U.S. Craftmaster. The model and serial number can be found on the manufacturer's label on the water heater. Electric water heaters are not included.

Sold: Installed on water heaters by gas appliance distributors and retailers, including Home Depot and Lowe's, as well as plumbers and plumbing/heating equipment suppliers. The gas valves also were sold separately through gas appliance service providers. Water heaters sold or serviced prior to July 25, 2005 are not affected.

Assembled in: Mexico

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Remedy: Consumers that believe they may have an affected water heater, please visit www.robertshaw.com. Have the model and serial numbers of your water heater ready. For further assistance, please contact Robertshaw. The model and serial numbers can be found on the manufacturer's label on the water heater. Robertshaw will arrange for a free repair or replacement, if necessary. If you smell gas near the appliance or in the building, immediately leave the area and call your gas company or a certified gas technician to investigate the cause.

Consumer Contact: Call Robertshaw at (888) 225-1071 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Saturday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.robertshaw.com to review a list of the appliances with recalled valves and to register for the recall.

To view this recall online, please visit our website at:
<https://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05274.html>

Description: The recall involves Brinkmann-brand and Charmglow-brand gas grills. The regulator is attached to the side of the grills. Only grills that have regulators with the name "GDA" are affected by this recall. The grills have three to six burners and the name "Brinkmann" or "Charmglow" on the lid.

Sold at: Home centers, sporting goods and hardware stores nationwide from January 2005 through September 2005 for between \$150 and \$900.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers with grills that have the "GDA" regulator should contact Brinkmann to receive a free repair kit or replacement hose regulator assembly.

Consumer Contact: Call Brinkmann toll-free at (800) 675-5301 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. Consumers also can log on to the company's Web site at www.brinkmann.net to request a repair kit.

To view this recall online, please visit our website at:
<https://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05266.html>

CPSC, The Brinkmann Corporation Announce Recall to Repair Gas Grills

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recalls in voluntary cooperation with the firms listed below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Brinkmann-brand and Charmglow-brand Gas Grills manufactured by Brinkmann

Units: About 130,000

Grill Manufacturer: The Brinkmann Corporation, of Dallas, Texas

Regulator Manufacturer: Zhonghshan GDA Gas Valve Co. Ltd., of China

Hazard: The regulators on these gas grills, the component that controls the amount of gas released to the burner, could leak gas when attached to certain liquid propane tanks. This poses a risk of fire and burn injuries.

Incidents/Injuries: The Brinkmann Corporation has received two reports of a small flame reportedly due to gas leaking at or near the propane cylinder. No injuries or property damage have been reported.

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Driver Burned after he used Lighter to Check Fuel

Long Island, New York, September 23 2005.

An East Patchogue truck driver is in critical condition after he used a cigarette lighter to check the fuel level in his dump truck that burst into flames, Nassau police said. Scott Allen, 38, of 290 Atlantic Ave., was driving a truck with a faulty fuel gauge and stopped to check the fuel level at the intersection of Peninsula Boulevard and Merrick Road in Lynbrook, police said. Allen decided to use the flame from a cigarette lighter to illuminate the tank. However, the lighter ignited fumes that engulfed the rest of the truck, police said. The Lynbrook Fire Department extinguished the burning truck and Allen was taken to Nassau University Medical Center with second-degree burns to his face, chest and right arm. He is listed in critical condition. The dump truck, a 2001 Volvo, is owned by Hawkeye Construction in Hauppauge. The fire happened just before 1 a.m. on Thursday.

http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-liboom24,0,5491437_story?coll=ny-top-headlines

Man Falls Asleep While Siphoning Gas

Muncie, Indiana September 27 2005.

A man fell asleep while siphoning gasoline into a 55-gallon tank that had been installed in the back of a van, police said. The manager of the Swifty station on the city's south side noticed the white van parked on its lot when he arrived Tuesday morning and called police. Inside the van, officers reported finding a man asleep next to a 55-gallon tank and a battery-operated pump. A hose from the pump led to the gas station's underground tank. "That's a lot of gas," Police Chief Joe Winkle said. "I'm sure he felt like this would be a pretty good heist for himself." Firefighters were called to disconnect the hose, and the man was arrested on charges of theft and possession of a firearm without a permit, Winkle said. He was being held in the Delaware County Jail. Winkle said investigators were working to confirm the man's identity. With regular unleaded at the station selling for \$2.67, the tank would have held nearly \$150 worth of fuel.

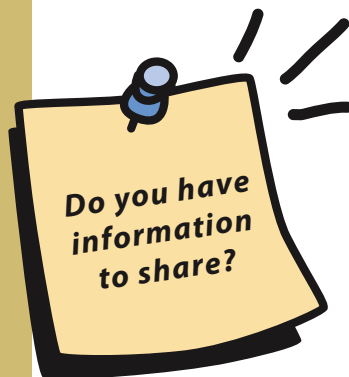
Link:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/27/AR2005092701223.html>

■ **Editor's Note:**

You can't make this stuff up! Keep this incident in mind at the next Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA). Any cargo vehicle or trailer should be visually checked. It may contain an illegal gasoline tank. With rising costs of motor fuel, there may be an increase of "Black Market" activities.

Send Us an Article



Contributions to *SIREN* are always welcome. Timely articles about your fire department or county that are informative and of interest to New York's fire service are preferred. Small articles and bits of information are just as valuable as larger articles. Photos submissions are encouraged. All submissions become the property of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Photo credits will be given where appropriate or requested. Contact us by e-mail at fire@dos.state.ny.us subject: *SIREN*.

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New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • October 2005

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